REACH HIGHER

LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION

FALL 2022

3 NEW MAJOR PROJECTS

We are excited to announce three new projects aimed at positively impacting students, staff and our community.

READ MORE PAGE 10.

THANK YOU, GOLF SPONSORS

Mark your calendars for the next LEF Golf Scramble - Monday, June 12, 2023.

READ MORE PAGE 2.

Thank you for your continued support!

TRUSTEES

JC Anderson
Leslie Arbanas
Ryan Arnt
Sophie Bauchet
Ludo Beaufils
Kate Beckrow
Zeb Deitrich
Chad Deja
Greg Eding
Janine Harrison
Gyl Kasewurm
Lori Marciniak
Elizabeth Meeth
Phil Molloy
Julia Pechtel
Jennifer Powers
Jim Roberts
Bill Scaletta
Lewis Scott
Heather Valenziano
Lori VonKoenig
Kathleen Wolf

50 DONORS

32 SPONSORS

32 TEAMS

$20,000 REVENUE

32 teams hit the links this past June for the 20th Annual Lakeshore Excellence Foundation Golf Scramble.

Participants enjoyed a round at beautiful Harbor Shores Golf Course, lunch, and had their shot at a number of fantastic prizes! The event raised $20,000! All money goes to support our mission that funds grants and opportunities for students, staff and the community of Lakeshore Public Schools.

LEF Golf Scramble Chair, Bill Scaletta, is thankful for the annual support received for this important event. "On behalf of the LEF Golf Committee, I would like to thank everyone who helped make our 20th annual golf scramble a success," said Scaletta. "Whether you were a golfer, raffle prize donor or a major sponsor, we could not have done it without your support. Go Lancers!"

Mark your calendars for the next LEF Golf Scramble - Monday, June 12, 2023.

Thank You, 2022 LEF Golf Scramble Sponsors and Donors.

EAGLE - MAJOR SPONSOR
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The Buck Burgers & Brew
Cracker Barrel
Curious Kids Museum
Lori & Larry Doggett
Fanatics
Grand Mere Inn
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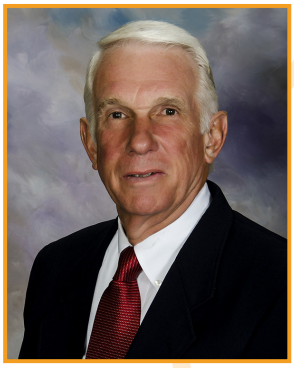
Harbor Shores Golf Club
Honor Credit Union
Hoopla Frozen Yogurt
Indian Hills Golf Course
Kilwins
Kingscott
KitchenAid
Lakeshore Athletic Dept.
Lakeshore CTE Program
Lake Michigan Hills Golf Course
Mark III Grille & Bar
Mason Jar
Outdoor Adventure Center
Papa Vino's Italian Kitchen
Professional Hearing Services
Pebblewood Country Club
Red Coach Donuts
Reflections Medical Spa
Schu's Bar & Grill
Sill Laser Graphics
Silver Beach Pizza
Silver Harbor Brewing Company
Soft Touch Car Wash
Sophia's House of Pancakes
State Street Meats
Subway
Taylor Rental/Party Plus
United Federal Credit Union
Watermark Brewing
Kathleen Wolf
Whirlpool Corporation

Thank you, Merlin Hanson.

A GREAT FRIEND ...

As President of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation, I would like to dedicate this Chairman's Letter to a great friend who we recently lost.


J.C. Anderson, Chairman

Merlin Hanson was a great friend of the LEF and had also become a personal friend. Merlin and his family represent the largest contributors to our Foundation and I will share the story regarding how Merlin became a contributor. Upon being asked and accepting the role of LEF President, we developed a fundraising campaign based on face to face communications and the request for a specific financial contribution. I had met and had social conversations with Merlin a couple of times but this was going to be the first real business discussion that we would have.

Merlin and I met at Papa Vino's for lunch and after discussing our backgrounds we moved into the LEF discussion. Merlin was tough and straight forward with his questioning of why he should make an investment in the LEF. I talked about Lakeshore students and their education and how much better we could make that based on our potential projects. After feeling like I really wasn't making much progress, I said ... "Merlin, I have been accountable for millions of dollars of investment at Whirlpool for the last 39 years and I think that I had a pretty good track record on those investments. Just because I retired, I'm not going to start making dumb decisions with the LEF money!" He asked me how much I was after from him and I indicated a 5 figure amount annually. He looked at me with a smile, held out his hand for a shake, and said ... "We have a deal." Each year after that we would have lunch and catch up with one another but he always wanted to know the LEF money was being wisely spent (my part of the deal) and he would then pass on a check (his part of the deal).

His interest in the LEF and the students at Lakeshore continued to grow over the years as illustrated by these three (3) examples. Shortly after our initial lunch at Papa Vino's, Merlin invited me to his office and introduced me to his four (4) children ... each of which are Lakeshore graduates. He talked about his commitment, his support of the LEF and then left me with the children to give a presentation regarding the LEF. Each of the children are now Lancer Leader level contributors to the LEF.

After the Oxford, Michigan, school shooting, I was contacted by the Hanson's asking about any necessary safety investments at Lakeshore. This conversation led to an additional 5 figure contribution for a revised door locking system at the high school.

The biggest contribution of all was the support for the entire PLC (Professional Learning Communities) project.

This was part of a $720,000 project investment that the LEF announced at the March 2022 Board of Education meeting. The day after this announcement received front page coverage in the Herald Palladium, as Merlin and his wife Carolyn were having coffee that morning, they became very interested in this particular project due to the impact on all of the students. I received a call later that day from the Hanson's and was very humbled by their commitment to fund the PLC portion of the project.

Maybe it's a coincidence that the day 45 Lakeshore teachers and administrators were attending the PLC Conference in Grand Rapids happened to be the day that Merlin passed. The impact that Merlin and his family have had on our school and community is perhaps indescribable in words. He was first a gentleman, a very successful businessman, and then became a great philanthropist. Merlin's passion for the arts, education, and economic development of our area led to the contribution of millions of dollars into these areas. Our community has certainly become a much better place to live and work as a result of Merlin Hanson.

Even though I was already retired from Whirlpool when I really started dealing with Merlin, I wish that I had met him much earlier in my life. He would have been a great mentor and I would have been much wiser from our conversations. Farewell and thank you my dear friend Merlin.

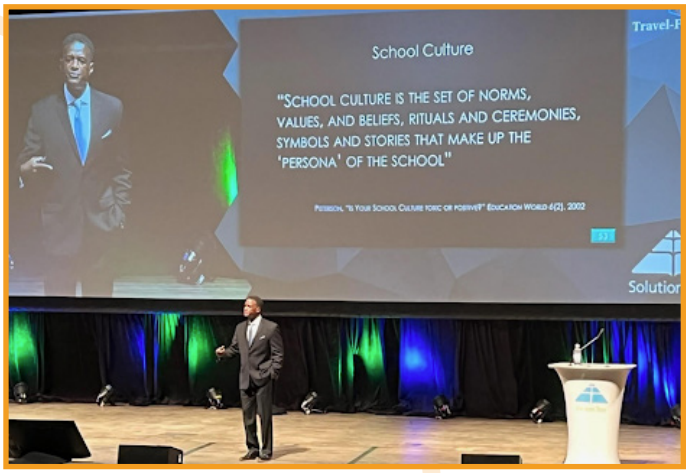
Sincerely,

J.C. Anderson

J.C. Anderson, LEF Board Chairman

Investing in Professional Learning Communities

COLLABORATING TO ENSURE ALL STUDENTS SUCCEED


School Culture
"SCHOOL CULTURE IS THE SET OF NORMS, VALUES, AND BELIEFS, RITUALS AND CEREMONIES, SYMBOLS AND STORIES THAT MAKE UP THE 'PERSONA' OF THE SCHOOL"

We are proud to kick off the first part of a 3 year commitment to fund professional learning communities (PLC's) and create ongoing development opportunities for our Lakeshore staff.

One of the three new major projects that are being funded by the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation got off the ground as a group of 45 educators and administrators from our district attended an in-person professional development session in Grand Rapids to learn more about Professional Learning Communities or PLC's. They attended the training created by Solution Tree, a company that is committed to transforming education by helping educators to raise student achievement.

The conference had approximately 1,400 attendees from over 20 states and Canada.

PLC's empower educators to work collaboratively in cycles of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students they serve. Many consider PLC's to be the most powerful strategy for sustained and substantial school improvement. PLC's create opportunities for continuous improvement within our school district.

Presenter Luis Cruz stated that "A school or school district becomes a PLC when the professional educators engage in an ongoing process of collaboration. This collaboration happens in recurring cycles of inquiry, where teams are looking at their common formative assessment data to determine which students 'got it', and which students didn't 'get it'. And then determining what we are going to do about it. Because HOPE is not a strategy."

Continuous learning among our educators is essential. LEF has committed $225,000 over three years to fund the training of our staff on PLC's. The outcome of this investment will be continuous, job-embedded training for our educators and improved learning for all students, every day.

LEF
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Continuous learning among our educators is essential. LEF has committed $225,000 over three years to fund the training of our staff on Professional Learning Communities.

Distinguished Alumni Award

KEITH AVERY & MIKE WELCH

Mike Welch (L) and Keith Avery (R)

Keith Avery (L) and Mike Welch (R)

Lakeshore High School Class of 81' graduates, Keith Avery and Mike Welch, share the Lakeshore High School Alumni Association and LEF 2022 Distinguished Alumni of the Year award.

John Welch, Mike's brother, paid tribute to the men at this year's commencement ceremony, held at Al Stockman Stadium on June 3. Prior to the ceremony, at a special reception, J.C. Anderson, President of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation shared...

"What a great pair of friends, classmates, and business partners to be recognized as our Distinguished Alumni this year. They each have done so much for the school and our community that this is an unusual but very appropriate recognition for Mike and Keith, plus their friends and family. I am both humbled and honored to take part in this celebration."

Keith and Mike first met in kindergarten at Roosevelt Elementary School. They were quick to become best friends and spent their younger years together playing sports including basketball and baseball. They became fierce competitors both on and off the field never wanting to come in second. They graduated from Lakeshore in 1981, not as the highest academic achievers, but looked to as leaders of their graduating class. After high school Keith attended Ferris State University and Mike went to Western Michigan University.

After college, Keith and Mike started an expedited trucking company called Express-1. The company grew from just two trucks to be one of the largest expedited transportation companies in North America. They eventually took Express-1 public and selected XPO as its stock symbol on Wall Street. They later sold XPO to Bradley Jacob of Jacob's Private Equity. After selling Express-1, Keith and Mike opened Honey Baked Ham in St. Joseph and after a few years relocated the business to Stevensville. They continued to "dabble" in other business ventures in and out of the transportation industry.

Keith and Mike have always been dedicated to Lakeshore and the community. Keith served as a trustee on the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation from 2006 to 2012. Keith and his wife Amy have twin boys, Jordan and Ryan, who both graduated from Lakeshore in 2012. Mike served on the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation from 2012-14 and the Lakeshore School Board from 2005-2019 (Vice President 2013-2019). Mike and Lisa's daughter Kara graduated from Lakeshore in 2016 and their son Carter graduated in 2019.

Mike lost his personal battle with glioblastoma — brain cancer — September 27, 2019, at the Hanson Hospice Center at 56 years of age. What he packed into those years will be remembered forever by those who knew and loved him. Keith was diagnosed with glioblastoma in 2021 and is fighting the battle of his life.

This is a unique story of two childhood friends going through the Lakeshore School system, heading along different paths to college and then reconnecting to start one of the most successful freight expediting companies in North America. Not only did these two Lakeshore graduates start new companies but they acquired other companies in the same industry. They looked for companies that shared the same values, dedication to service and business fundamentals that they learned as students at Lakeshore.

Welcome to the Board!

Gyl Kasewurm

GYL KASEWURM

Gyl Kasewurm, a lifelong resident of Michigan's Great Southwest, earned her Doctorate in Audiology degree from Central Michigan University and has owned and operated Professional Hearing Services (PHS) in Saint Joseph, Michigan for many years. The unique practice is known within the industry as a benchmark for the patient experience. Dr. Kasewurm is a well-known author and speaker and has earned many honors, but is most proud of the designation of being a Distinguished Alumnus of Lakeshore High School.

Ryan Arnt

RYAN ARNT

Ryan Arnt has called Southwest Michigan home for over 35 years and was a student at Lakeshore. He earned his bachelor's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University. Ryan returned to Southwest Michigan in 1998 and has been a REALTOR for 24 years, currently the Real Estate Broker & Owner of Keller Williams Realty. Ryan serves as the President of the St. Joe Kickers Club and chairs the Public Policy Committee for the Michigan Association of REALTORS. He was also a past President of the Lakeshore Rotary Club. Ryan & his wife Gretchen have two children. They enjoy watching their kids participate in all kinds of activities from travel baseball to gymnastics, as well as boating, cooking great BBQ, golfing, and skiing. Ryan & Gretchen have supported Lakeshore football radio broadcasts for many years, plus basketball, wrestling, golf, choir, band, and many other Lakeshore programs.

Class of 1972 Celebrates

The Lakeshore High School Class of '72 recently gathered in Stevensville to celebrate their 50 year reunion. Festivities kicked off graduation weekend with a banquet at Pebblewood Country Club, and continued into the weekend with a tour of their Alma Mater - Lakeshore High School - followed by a picnic at Barb Kramer Day's family home in downtown Stevensville.

LEF is a strong supporter of the Lakeshore Alumni Association and these annual class reunions. The Lakeshore Excellence Foundation recently funded an initiative to compile an updated LPS alumni directory.

Want a way to stay in touch with your former classmates? Consider filling out our alumni contact form. There are no dues or membership fees - just a great way to stay informed of alumni events and school initiatives. Those registered will also receive an invitation to their 50-year class reunion; enjoy front row seats at commencement and a reception after the ceremony. Learn more by visiting: lefonline.org/alumni/get-registered/

LEF Supports Lakeshore Students

Hollywood Elementary third grade students can better maximize their learning time thanks to these new Store More® Deluxe Chair Pockets.

Their teacher, David Castonguay, received a staff support grant from the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation to purchase the pockets, which help store materials like pencils, markers, highlighters, and erasers. The chair pockets also include clear plastic pockets to hold a student's name tag.

Castonguay says tools like these help minimize transition time between subjects by keeping students organized.

Real World Finance

Lakeshore Middle School students had the opportunity to get some hands-on experience in the world of personal finance, thanks to a LEF Staff Support Grant, requested by their teacher, Jenn Engleman. Last Spring, these former 8th grade students participated in Junior Achievement's Finance Park. JA Finance Park is Junior Achievement's capstone program for personal financial planning and career exploration. Engleman says the program, which includes curriculum and a simulation, helps students build a foundation on which they can make intelligent financial decisions that last a lifetime - including choices related to income, expenses, savings, and credit.

Engleman says the program culminated with a visit to JA Finance Park, held at the Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds. "Students were able to engage with volunteers and put into practice what they learned by developing a personal budget," said Engleman. "Thank you to the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation for funding this wonderful learning opportunity."

Lakeshore Middle School get hands-on experience in finance!

Students enjoying building with STEM.

Making Bridges with STEM Materials

5th grade Stewart Elementary students, in Janelle Ayers class, had a great time constructing bridges with new STEM materials they received through a grant from the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation.

LEF LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coalition

Creating An Inclusive Environment at Lakeshore: The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coalition.

The Lakeshore Excellence Foundation has made a pledge and commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. But what does it mean to be more inclusive and how do we continue to promote inclusion throughout the district?

According to the Oxford dictionary, inclusion is the practice or policy of providing equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized, such as those who have physical or mental disabilities and members of other minority groups.

Inclusion focuses on the whole environment at Lakeshore, being aware of and making changes so that all children can participate fully. In an inclusive environment, diversity is acknowledged, respected and celebrated as a resource for learning, growth and change. Within an inclusive environment all students experience a sense of belonging, feeling respected, valued and seen for who they are as individuals.

One way that our district is working towards becoming more inclusive has been the establishment of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coalition (DEIC). The DEIC is a cohort of passionate Lakeshore students who are committed to improving the learning experience for all students. They are empathetic toward their peers and possess the courage to address pitfalls, seeking resolutions that create a more inclusive environment within Lakeshore by providing support to individuals who may feel marginalized within our district.

The DEIC was designed to be a student-led group in order to catalyze a positive influence and create growth at the student level with the goal of creating a more optimistic and inclusive environment throughout the Lakeshore community.

When asked why it is important that Lakeshore creates a DEIC, one student responded, "It is important that Lakeshore has a DEI Coalition because all students should know that they have peers and administrators who are committed to supporting them. It is so important for marginalized youth who may feel alienated, to know that the district is here to support them through their educational journey and development."

The DEIC will be creating events and activities centered around the inclusion of all students. If students are interested in joining the DEIC, they can email Mr. Greg Eding, Superintendent at geding@lpslancer.net. There is a desire to continue growing the group.

LEF
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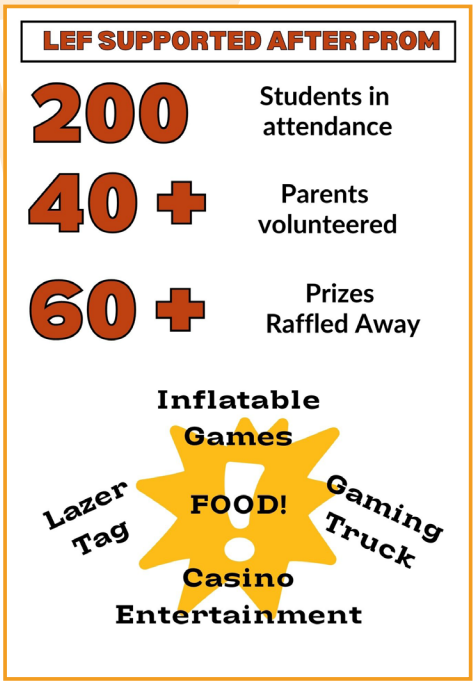
FOUNDATION

Excellent schools are the foundation of excellent communities. When you invest in Lakeshore Public Schools through the LEF, you are investing in the quality of life in our community both today and tomorrow.

LHS After Prom and Senior Dinner Cruise

Senior Dinner Cruise



Lakeshore High School was able to bring back two fun traditions this spring ~ After Prom and the Senior Dinner Cruise in Chicago!

Both events had taken a hiatus the past two years due to Covid-19, and fundraising opportunities had been minimal. LEF was able to help bridge the gap in funding for both events. Juniors and Seniors attended After Prom at the High School following Prom festivities at Shadowland Ballroom on April 30th. There were many games, snacks and fun prizes to win. On May 31st, a few days after finishing their last day of school at Lakeshore, the Seniors were excited to celebrate together on a Senior Dinner Cruise on the boat Chicago's First Lady. They enjoyed catering by Harry Carey's, dancing, and a beautiful sunset on Lake Michigan.

A wonderful time was had by all. Senior Caroline Beckrow commented "It was a fantastic opportunity to savor our final moments together as Lakeshore students. Many thanks to the LEF for your generous contributions for both After Prom and the Senior Dinner Cruise."

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN ECONOMIC CLUB

Lakeshore High School students had a chance to hear from Television Broadcast Journalist, Elizabeth Vargas, as part of the Southwest Michigan Economic Club speaker series. LEF provides funding for the ongoing program that is open to all high school students.

Elizabeth Vargas is an American television journalist who came to the Southwest Michigan Economic Club on May 10th. Seven students from Lakeshore attended.

Henry Winkler is scheduled in November.

MAJOR PROJECT INVESTMENT $720,000

Our schools are experiencing many of the same issues that today's businesses are facing.

Businesses are struggling to recruit new hires, retain current employees and provide development opportunities to ensure future readiness. Lakeshore Public Schools are also dealing with similar issues, which is why the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation has committed to raise funds that deliver projects to address these challenges while positively impacting students, staff and our community.

In 2022, LEF will begin supporting three, new major projects: Technology Refresh for our elementary students, New Teacher Recruitment and Current Staff Development through Professional Learning Communities – PLC's.

Listen in as Joe Jason speaks with LEF Chairman, JC Anderson, about the scope of these major projects: https://bit.ly/LEFMajorProjects. Our thanks to the Lakeshore Lancers Network for their continued Support.

TECHNOLOGY REFRESH

Elementary students

CHALLENGE:

The pace of change of technology is daunting. Our elementary student technology has not been upgraded since 2017. Without new technology our children run the risk of falling behind.

SOLUTION:

LEF will fund 1:1 technology for all students K – 5th grade, including Young 5's. Touchscreen Chromebooks will provide a richer learning experience with improved academic achievement while preparing our students for future success.

$345,000 Investment

NEW TEACHER RECRUITMENT

New hires

CHALLENGE:

The number of people entering the teaching profession has dropped drastically. Lakeshore needs to position ourselves uniquely to be able to recruit new, top quality educators.

SOLUTION:

LEF will fund a new teacher recruitment grant that will provide up to $10,000 in incentives for new hires. This program will differentiate Lakeshore from other schools, improving our opportunity to recruit the best teachers into our school district.

$150,000 Investment

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For current staff

CHALLENGE:

Continuous learning among our educators is critical. We had established late-start Wednesdays to allow the staff to collaborate, but we haven't given them the ongoing training to help make the best use of this time.

SOLUTION:

LEF will fund training for all staff in support of PLC's – Professional Learning Communities. The outcome of this grant will result in continuous job-embedded training for educators and improved learning for all students, every day.

$225,000 Investment

CONTRIBUTION FORM

Name of Contributor(s):

_____

Address/City/State:

_____

Phone (Home): _____
Phone (Work): _____
Phone (Cell): _____
Email: _____

Are you a Lakeshore graduate?
☐ YES ☐ NO
If YES, what year did you graduate?
_____

Will your employer match this contribution? ☐ YES ☐ NO

My contribution amount: $_____

Optional:
My gift is in honor/memory of:

_____

Address/City/State if applicable:

_____

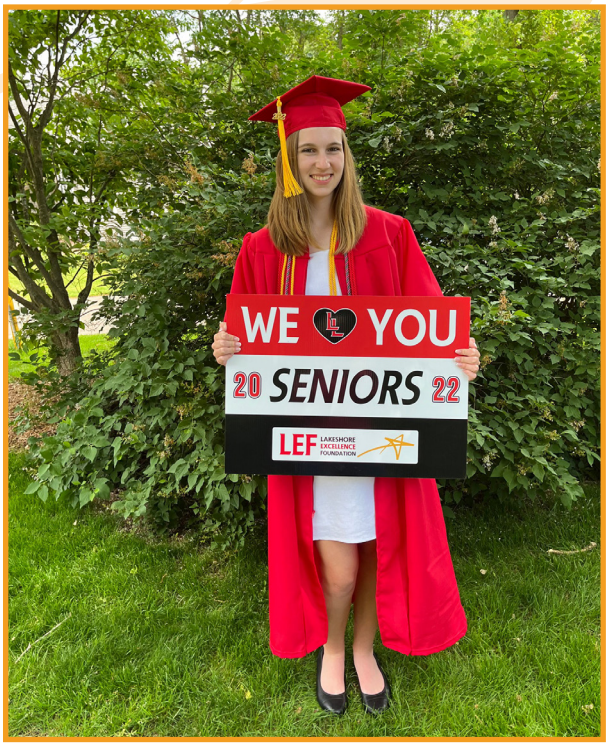
SEND FORM AND CONTRIBUTION TO:

Lakeshore Excellence Foundation
5771 Cleveland Avenue,
Stevensville, MI 49127

Please make checks payable to Lakeshore Excellence Foundation.

The Lakeshore Excellence Foundation was established in 1997 as a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors made up of local community members. Your donation to the foundation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

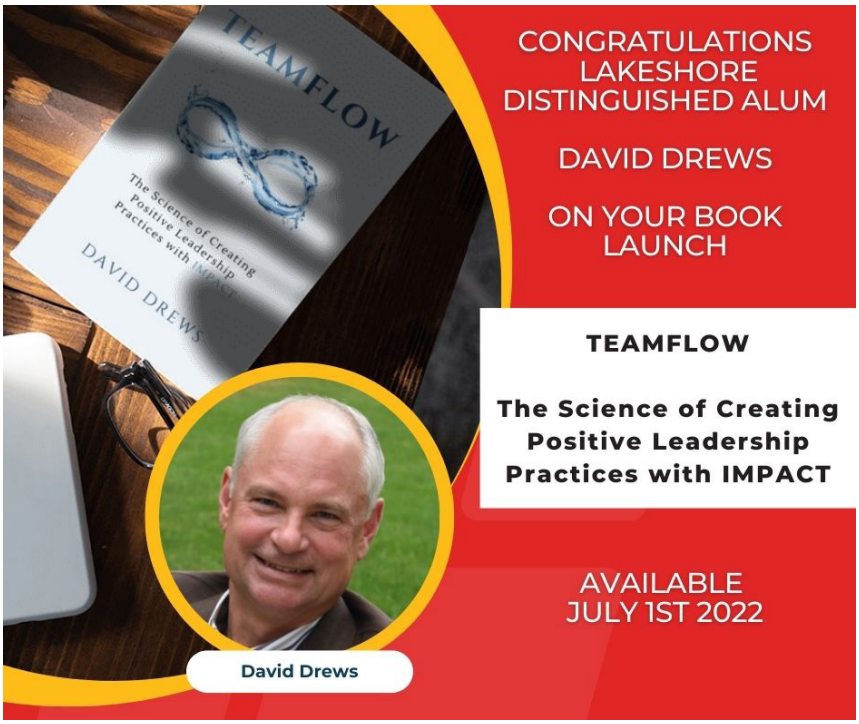
LEF Supports Lakeshore Students



2022 Lakeshore Public Schools Graduate

Congratulations to the Class of 2022!

LEF is proud to support all of our students and staff. We wanted to give an extra special send-off to our seniors by sponsoring the signs you see around town. Way to go Class of '22!



amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Do you shop on Amazon.com? Did you know you can buy the exact same items, at the same price, and LEF will receive a percentage of your sale?

Simply go to Smile.Amazon.com and choose Lakeshore Excellence Foundation as your charitable organization.

MAKE YOUR ONLINE SHOPPING COUNT!

It's as simple as going to:

smile.amazon.com

LAKESHORE Alumni

WAYS TO KEEP IN TOUCH

1. Join the Lakeshore High School Alumni Facebook Group:
   Search for "Lakeshore High School Alumni" and Join the Group
2. Register on the LEF website for email updates:
   lefonline.org/alumni/get-registered

If you graduated from Lakeshore High School, this is a great way to stay in touch!

LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund is our long-term strategy to funding the LEF mission of learning for generations to come.

Annually, the LEF Board evaluates the health of the fund, makes contributions based on giving and project needs, and reinvests the earned interest. If you are interested in learning more about the Endowment Fund, please contact J.C. Anderson at (269) 921-2513 or email at anderjcna@gmail.com.

THE FACTS

The state funding for public schools in Michigan continues to be a challenge and Lakeshore is in the bottom 25% in funding. Yes, 75% of Michigan public school districts receive more state funding on a revenue per student basis!

SIX WAYS TO GIVE

1. Donate conveniently online
2. Swing those clubs
3. Become a Lakeshore Lancer Leader
4. Give us your two cents
5. Endowment Fund
6. Planned Giving

LEF LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION

Learn more about LEF

Visit our website: LEFonline.org
Follow us on Facebook @LakeshoreExcellence
Read our newsletter in the Lakeshore Light
Contact our Chairman, J.C. Anderson (anderjcna@gmail.com)